

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 24, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Tuesday May 24th., 1898. My dear Alec:

No letter from you today — but of course I can't expect two letters every day although I would like them.

I have been reading Papa's father's letters to his second wife during their engagement. I am almost inclined to fall in love with him myself in spite of his desperate religiousness. The number of prayer meetings for every variety of purpose they indulged in would astonish even a Baddeck Presbyterian I am sure — yet he seems such a charming man from his letters I am sure he can't have been unpleasantly religious. He always speaks of his “dear children” so nicely almost always mentioning them separately, as “Eliza was not very well — Joanna and Mary Anne were much pleased with their letters. Gardiner sends you three honey kisses as he calls them — Caroline is well” He tells her all about the arrangement of his house and household and altogether I feel as if I know all about it.

I believe Charles telegraphed you about the reported battle, I fear it was a waste of money the “Star” doesn't believe in it tonight.

Do you think you could suggest to your father and Mrs Bell that they might write to Mr and Mrs David Bell? I know they feel hurt at not having heard and I tell you frankly, I think your Uncle is failing. I was really much distressed to see him today. He and Mrs Bell came out to their usual Tuesday dinner with Grace. He was quite bright when he came, but would eat no dinner, and before we were through complained of feeling very ill and got into the carriage with great difficulty. We were afraid to let the two old people go home alone so Helen went, she said that Aileen did not seem disturbed, said her father would be alright 2

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after a nap, but he has shrunken and his hands are very thin and pale and invalidish and his legs look mere sticks. It is his hands that I notice most, his face is in very good color. I think the hands are really my only strong ground for thinking he is failing, but they seem to me unmistakeable. Papa's never looked so badly.

He would like to go to Baddeck and I think he would like to stay with Mrs. Tremaine again, but of course it is too long a journey for him to make unless some of the family were there. We might offer the house to Mr and Mrs Wynne and let her entertain her father and mother there.

Grace and Charlie returned from the Adirondecks this evening looking all the better for their trip.

Dr. Merriam and Prof. Otis T. Mason are both very ill the former with congestion at the base of the brain the other with apoplexy.

I am getting homesick for you. I am going to work really hard now that Grace is here and can look after her children, if I accomplish something I shall feel repaid for staying away from you, but I do miss you terribly, What must Mamma's feelings be,

Loving you dearly, Mabel.